

POSSIBLE RETURN OF BIKINI NATIVES

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April 7, 1952

Letter to Mr. Dean from James P. Davis, Director Office of Territories, Department of Interior

Enclosed a letter to Davis from McConnell, Deputy High Commissioner, Pacific Trust Territories pointing out the need for something to be done for the Bikini natives now living on Kili. Fishing is poor, poor harbor facilities and general conditions are poor. The letter asks:

1. Can natives be returned to Bikini?
2. If not, what can be done for them?

Davis advised that the matter was being considered.

(Mr. Davis also advised that the matter was being considered for him to take during the meeting.)

April 9, 1952

Memorandum to Mr. Dean from Mr. Boyer

Recommends that no assurance be given that natives can ever return to Bikini because:

1. AEC may need Bikini if Eniwetok goes up with
2. Or contamination may be so bad we cannot use Eniwetok for a long time.

Biology & Medicine states no radioactive hazards at Bikini that would harm natives if they were returned. But Mr. Boyer recommends that this information should not be volunteered since there is some doubt on the basis which AEC would want to prevent return of natives. The AEC states that it is not possible to give another island to the natives and that it is not possible for Bikini. The AEC states that it is not possible to give another island to the natives and that it is not possible to give another island to the natives.

April 17, 1952

Memorandum to Mr. Dean from Mr. Boyer

States that he was visited by Thomas Davis and Son to discuss the matter. Mr. Dean told them that we would have to secure additional information on radioactive hazards at Bikini since last survey was made in 1946. He told them that AEC might still have to use Bikini.

From NMB-DA

RETURNED TO BUREAU
AUTHORITY:

BY H. R. SCHMIDT

14 APR 1952

MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL.

307

1. Have a recheck made on radioactivity at Bikini and if safe,
2. Consider another island for test use.

Mr. Dean said that Hansen and Davis would be sent to survey the trust islands to find one meeting the specific requirements.

[illegible]

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

None to General MacArthur from Colonel Sturges.
Sturges discussed matter with Sedy, Department of
who stated that Hawaiian Office of Interior needs
information on suitable islands and atolls as targets
is almost total.

(Colonel Sahitation notes: After above information available, the 1st. Squad F. Operations. The uninitiated island will serve as an alternate than Biting.)

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Location: [REDACTED]
Remarks: [REDACTED]

Following actions seem necessary:

1. Get Biology & Medicine to state final position, as soon as possible, to whether Bikini is safe for the natives to return and live on.
2. Assuming Bikini safe, SFO-AEC must determine whether Bikini is a test site.
3. Assuming we can get along without Bikini, SFO-AEC must select another island from the list to be submitted by the Department of Interior.
4. Question of money to pay for another island for the natives, and whether we can afford to pay for another island.